

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN - March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent



In this season of Lent, Christ meets us in our need and leads us toward life. In this season of Lent, Christ meets us in our despair and calls us into life.

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **BOLD**. *Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.

Worship Volunteers: Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Cathy German – Children’s Message: Katie Lochry – Ushers: Pam Callahan, Grace Hochstetler, & Tyler Bowers – Tech: Todd German & Jen Mahoney – Counters: Betsy Kachmar & Cathy German – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Welcome

Call to Worship —

Come, people of God, from places of weariness and waiting.

We come seeking the breath of life.

The Spirit of the Lord brings life to dry bones.

God breathes hope into what feels lifeless.

Jesus calls us out of the tombs we inhabit.

Christ leads us from death into life.

Come, let us worship the God who restores and renews.

We come to worship with open hearts. Amen.

Opening Hymn #785 *In Deepest Night*

Call to Confession —

God calls us out of what binds us and into new life, yet we often remain in places of fear, doubt, and despair. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession —

God of life, we confess that we have not always trusted your power to bring new life. We cling to what is familiar, even when it keeps us bound. We have stayed in places of fear, held onto despair, and doubted that hope could rise again. Forgive us, O God. Call us out of what entombs us. Breathe your Spirit into our weary hearts, and lead us into the life you promise. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon —

Hear the good news: The God who brings life to dry bones and calls Lazarus from the tomb is the same God who forgives and restores us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and set free.

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Children's Message

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, as your Word is read and proclaimed, breathe your Spirit into us once more. Open our ears to hear your voice, open our eyes to see your truth, and open our hearts to receive new life. Speak to us, O God, for your servants are listening. **Amen.**

Hebrew Bible: Ezekiel 37:1-14

p.1345

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. 3 He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! 5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath[a] enter you, and you will come to life. 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

9 Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

11 Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

Choir Anthem #286 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Gospel — John 11:1-45

p.1668

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

8 “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. 10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

12 His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles[b] from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

The Plot to Kill Jesus

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Message

Called Out of the Tomb

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,

and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of Response #728 Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

God of life and resurrection, you meet us in our grief, our waiting, and our longing. Hear now the prayers of your people.

We pray for your Church, that it may be a place of hope and renewal, where your Spirit breathes life into all who gather.

We pray for the world, for places that feel like dry bones—where there is violence, division, and despair. Bring healing, justice, and peace.

We pray for those who grieve, those who feel surrounded by loss, those who wait for signs of hope. Be near to them, O God.

We pray for those who feel stuck or bound—in fear, in illness, in uncertainty. Call them by name, and lead them into new life.

We pray for this community, that we may be people who notice, who listen, and who carry your life into the world.

God of resurrection, we trust that you are still at work, even when we cannot yet see it.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

God breathes life into us and calls us into new life. In gratitude for all that we have received, let us offer our gifts to God.

Offertory *Are Ye Able?* by Pugh

Doxology #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray: God of abundance, you bring life where there was none and hope where there was despair. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and use them to bring life, healing, and hope to the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn #53 "O God, Who Gives Us Life"

Charge & Benediction

Postlude *Classical Theme* by Marcello

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Session Meeting: There will be a special Session Meeting following the service on March 22nd to discuss working with Wellspring on a Summer Day Camp.

Annual Lenten Study: Wednesdays through Lent, 5:30-6:30 PM. Fellowship at 5:00 PM. Bring your dinner and chat with the others present.

Grace's Easter Egg Hunt Returns: We're hosting another Easter event for our friends and community. The fun will be on April 4th, at 10:00 AM. We are currently looking for candy donations (there's a bin in the narthex) and volunteers. Find Todd for more information.

Congregational Care Network: We're partnering with IU Health in a new program to support the individuals in our community who are homebound. Through this ministry, volunteers will make weekly one-hour phone calls or check-ins to offer companionship and encouragement. It's a simple commitment that can make a meaningful difference in someone's week. There will be a brief informational meeting after the service on March 29th during the fellowship hour. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact a member of the MOE Committee or Pastor Sandy for more information.

Holy Week: Palm Sunday - 3.28 (10:30 AM) Maundy Thursday - 4.2 (7:00 PM) Good Friday - 4.3 (noon at United Faith) Easter - 4.5 (10:30 AM)

Birthdays

Karla Lee - March 29

Anniversaries

Worship Volunteers for March 29, 2026

Lay Leader - Jill Werling

Children's Message - Holly Bouthot

Ushers - Pam Callahan, Grace

Hochstetler, & Tyler Bowers

Technology - Todd German & Jen Mahoney

Counters - Betsy Kachmar & Cathy German

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

To connect to our worship services on Zoom, follow these instructions to watch or listen. You can connect at 10:15 for fellowship; the service starts at 10:30.

Option 1: Automatically Join the Meeting

Follow the link in the email sent every week. This is by far the easiest way to connect to the live video.

Option 2: Manually Join the Meeting

You can download Zoom from <https://www.zoom.us>.

After you have installed the program/app, click on “Join” and enter this information:

Meeting ID: 9712063468 *Password:* 030414

Option 3: Call in to Listen (Audio Only)

On Sunday Morning, you can call to listen to the service. After you call, it will ask you to enter the Meeting ID and Password Below:

Phone Number: (301) 715-8592 *Meeting ID:* 9712063468 *Password:* 030414

785

In Deepest Night

Capo 1: (D) E^b (Em7) Fm7 (D) E^b

1 In deep - est night, in dark - est days, when harps are hung,
 2 When friend was lost, when love de - ceived, dear Je - sus wept,
 3 When through the wa - ters winds our path, a - round us pain,

(Em7) Fm7 (Bm) Cm (D) E^b (G) A^b

no songs we raise, when si - lence must suf - fice as praise,
 God was be - reaved; so with us in our grief God grieves,
 a - round us death, deep calls to deep, a sav - ing breath,

(D) E^b (Dmaj7)(E) E^bmaj7 F (Em7) Fm7 (G) (A7)(Dsus) (D) A^b B^b7 E^bsus E^b

yet sound - ing in us qui - et - ly there is the song of God.
 and round a - bout us mourn - ful - ly there are the tears of God.
 and found be - side us faith - ful - ly there is the love of God.

If we are honest about the range of human experience, not everything we sing in church can be loud or joyful. The author describes this hymn as "a song of quiet hope in the middle of intense sorrow." It speaks eloquently of God's presence with us through our most difficult times.

TEXT: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1995
 MUSIC: David Schwoebel, 2008
 Text © 1995 Susan Palo Cherwien (admin. Augsburg Fortress)
 Music © 2008 Celebrating Grace, Inc.

ROSE MARY
 8.8.8.8.6

728 Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door; some - bod - y's

knock-ing at your door; O sin - ner, why don't you

an - swer? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your door.

1 Knocks like Je - sus.
2 Can't you hear him? Some-bod - y's knock-ing at your
3 An - swer Je - sus.

The description of the Son of Man as standing at the door and knocking (Revelation 3:20) has given rise to many visual and verbal representations of that figure. This African American spiritual uses its repeated phrases to imitate knocking and to give immediacy to this encounter.

door. Knocks like Je - sus.
Can't you hear him? Some - bod - y's
An - swer Je - sus.

knock-ing at your door. O sin - ner, why don't you

an - swer? Some - bod - y's knock-ing at your door.

53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de-spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1990
MUSIC: English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874
Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

NOEL
CMD

Songs reprinted with permission under CCLI 1292718 or ONE LICENSE A-731346.